

FALLON COUNTY ATTORNEY

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EXHIBIT 11
DATE 1/18/07
HB 250

January 17, 2007

House Judiciary Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, Montana

Re: HB 250

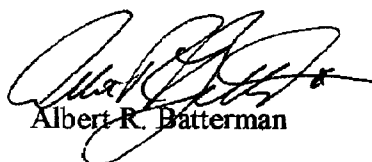
To the Honorable Committee:

This letter is in support of HB 250 regarding the assumption and payment by the State of Montana of child abuse and neglect cases.

As a part-time county attorney representing two small rural counties, the time and costs associated with these cases is extensive and burdensome for my office budget and staff. It is my opinion that the handling of abuse and neglect proceedings will be greatly enhanced if assumed by the DPHHS in their entirety; the specialized nature and incredibly short filing deadlines involved in these cases counsel in favor of assumption by the department having the greatest familiarity and expertise in this area of the law.

Please let me know if I may provide further information on this or any other matter.

Thank you,


Albert R. Batterman

cc: Fallon County Commission